

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 8/12/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nikki J. Schmidt 805/781-5496	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services in FY 2014-15. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services for FY 2014-15.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$72,000.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>8-20-13, item #13</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nikki J. Schmidt, Administrative Office

DATE: 8/12/2014

SUBJECT: Request to approve Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services in FY 2014-15. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services for FY 2014-15.

DISCUSSION

The County has contracted with the Ferguson Group (TFG) since October 2006. Since that time, TFG has assisted the County in matters pertaining to the federal government, including federal funding, legislative, regulatory, and other administrative issues of interest to the County.

In April 2014, the Board provided direction to the TFG by approving the County's CY (Calendar Year) 2014/FFY (Federal Fiscal Year) 2015 Federal Work Plan and Agenda (below).

Field	Projects/Issues	Grants – NOFAs
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drought & Water Reliability• Los Osos• Clean water• Salinas Dam• HCPs• South County Sanitation District – Water Recycling• Flood Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal Protection (FWS)• Rural Community Development (USDA)• Domestic well assistance.
Transportation & Public Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reauthorization Bill• Highway Trust Fund insolvency• Cayucos Pier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reauthorization bill action pending• Highway Trust Fund action imminent
Public Safety, Social Services & County Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yucca Mountain & Nuclear Waste Policy• PILT Protection• Homelessness• Veterans Assistance• Fire Hydrant Bill (CWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance to Firefighters (FEMA)• Museum (IMLS)• Job Training (EDA)• Arrest Policy & Protection Order Enforcement (DOJ)• 2nd Chance Reentry (DOJ)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous Materials and Rail Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation & Parole (DOJ) • Environmental Workforce (EPA) • Rural veterans transportation • Housing Preservation Grants
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Since approval of the Federal Agenda, TFG has been keeping us informed as well as working with the County's congressional delegation and County staff on the following issues. Additional information can be found in the attached Federal Agenda Update from Mike Miller of the Ferguson Group.

- Drought: TFG has been focusing on identifying funding opportunities for drought relief and long term water supply stability. TFG continues to work with staff from Senator Feinstein and Boxer offices as well as other agencies such as US Army Corps of Engineer, FEMA, USDA and the Bureau of Reclamation to provide input regarding the County's drought priorities and issues;
- Los Osos Wastewater Project: TFG worked to ensure that the Water Reform and Resources Development Act (WRRDA) that was passed in June did not compromise the \$35 million authorization in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Currently, the US Army Corps of Engineering is working on a list of projects for de-authorization consideration by Congress later in the year. TFG is be working throughout the summer and fall with County staff and the Corps to ensure that the Los Osos project is not de-authorized;
- Transportation: TFG continues to provide input to the County's congressional delegation about the impacts that the Highway Trust Fund insolvency issues would have on transportation projects within the County. As of the last update received from TFG, the House of Representatives has passed legislation that would provide for a short term bailout which would extend highway funding through May 2015. The legislation has now moved to the Senate for their consideration;
- Salinas Dam: TFG continues to work with the US Army Corps of Engineer to develop a strategy for handling seismic upgrades and resource utilization at Salinas Dam, achieve timely regulatory review and approval of projects as well as securing the operating agreement renewal for the Dam.

TFG regularly interacts with federal agencies on behalf of the County, providing answers to County questions and concerns. TFG continues to provide assistance on issues such as the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program where TFG discussed the situation with PILT officials and provided accurate budget forecasts to the County. TFG also provides updates regarding CDBG budgeting and other types of formula funding relied upon by the County for ongoing operations. This type of assistance will continue to be helpful to the County, especially as Congress and the Administration work through ongoing issues as noted above.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Administrative Office and the Ferguson Group staff developed the terms of the amendment. County Counsel has reviewed the agreement and approved it as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

During FY 2014-15 budget hearings, the Board approved funding for federal lobbyist services at the cost of \$72,000 per year, including expenses.

RESULTS

Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services with TFG will continue federal lobbying efforts on benefit of San Luis Obispo County with the intention of obtaining federal assistance and revenues that would otherwise be more difficult to access. Additional revenues contribute to the County's goal of a safe, health, livable, well-governed, and prosperous community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services
2. Federal Agenda update